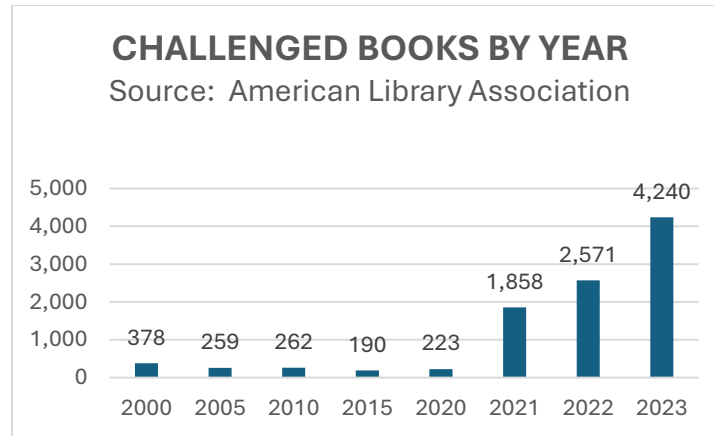


Did you know that the effort to ban books is rising at an alarming rate? Not since before the start of World War 2 has book banning been so prevalent. In fact, challenges to unique book titles have risen dramatically since 2020 as shown in the chart below with data from the American Library Association.



What is a book challenge?

Attempt to remove or restrict materials or services based on content. A book may be challenged because someone perceives the content to be offensive based on their personal ideology. Perhaps they find the book contains language that is offensive, or the violence is too graphic, or the content is sexual in nature, or it disrespects of their specific beliefs. Or simply because one person feels a book is “not age appropriate.”

What is a book ban?

A banned book is a book that has been *removed* from libraries, schools, or bookstores due to objections to its content, ideas, or themes.

Who can challenge a book?

A book challenge can be raised by any one person or group.

Why is this important?

The banning of books is a form of censorship restricting individuals from access to information, denying their 1st Amendment right.

This organized effort has commandeered school and library boards, city councils, and state legislatures in an unprecedented effort to extend ideological control over public institutions and ban books by any means necessary.

This movement to challenge books based often on one person’s ideology or opinion puts an extraordinary burden on the staff and impugns the reputation of resolute library and school staff, some even receiving physical threats. In fact, some states have passed laws that allow librarians to be prosecuted for displaying banned books.

